



-35-

## VECTORS CARRYING THERAPEUTIC GENES ENCODING ANTIMICROBIAL PEPTIDES FOR GENE THERAPY

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to recombinant vectors carrying sequences encoding naturally occurring antimicrobial peptides or derivatives thereof for the treatment of mammalian tumours and viral infections such as HIV infections and bacterial and fungal infections. In particular the present invention relates to retroviral vectors. Furthermore, the present invention relates to retroviral vectors which undergo promoter conversion (Procon vectors) carrying such sequences. Since these vectors also carry tumour or virus specific regulatory elements, the therapeutic antimicrobial peptide will be delivered and expressed only in relevant, affected cells and not in innocent bystander cells.